RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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contrast, the most substantial decline for the twelve month period was evident in Transportation Equipment (-500). Also down from their year ago totals were Electrical Machinery (-300), Fabricated Metals (-200), Stone-Clay-Glass, Nonelectrical Machinery and the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment (-100 each). Employment in Primary Metals was unchanged from August 1987.

Among the Nondurable Goods producing industries, Textile employment (+700) reflected the largest monthly increase. In addition, employment advances of 200 each were reported in Printing-Publishing and Leather Products, while upturns of 100 each were recorded in Apparel, Paper Products, Chemical Products and Plastics Products. Payroll levels in the remaining Nondurable Goods industries showed no change in the July-August period. On an annual comparison, employment expansion in Printing-Publishing and Chemical Products (+200 each) was more than offset by downturns in Apparel (-300), Food-Beverage and Textiles (-200 each), and Rubber Products (-100). Job levels in the remaining Nondurable Goods Industries were unchanged compared to August 1987.

NONMANUFACTURING

Total employment in Rhode Island's Nonmanufacturing sector showed little change from July to August, increasing by 300 to the current level of 342,800. Nevertheless, this figure represents a substantial gain of 6,300 jobs from the year ago total of 336,500.

Within the Nonmanufacturing sector, the largest monthly increase (+300), occurred in Wholesale and Retail Trade employment. At 106,800, this industry showed an annual upturn of 1,700 jobs. Both Contract Construction, at 21,200, and Services employment, at 116,000, advanced by 100 from the prior month. Compared to a year ago, the former was up 500, while the latter industry increased by 2,500. Although overall Government employment fell by 100 in the July-August period to 56,700, it remained 700 above the August 1987 total. Similarly, payroll levels in Transportation and Public Utilities, at 15,700, were down 100 on a monthly basis, but showed an upturn of 300 compared to a year ago. Employment in Finance, Insurance and Real-Estate posted no change from the July total of 26,400, but was 600 greater than the figure recorded in August 1987.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers decreased slightly by 3 cents to $8.50 in mid-August, but were up 22 cents compared to a year ago. The average work week declined by 0.1 of an hour in August to 39.3 hours, which was 0.5 of an hour below the figure reported in August 1987. Average weekly earnings for these workers amounted to $334.05 in August. Although this represents a decline of $2.03 from last month, it is $4.51 more than the total recorded a year ago.

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